

Arlene's Solar Furnace



In 2008, Arlene built a Solar Furnace, a structure that uses concentrated solar energy to produce high temperatures, to heat her farm in Pennsylvania, USA. Arlene's construction of the furnace, the use of regular non-specialist materials, and her matter of fact description of the project uploaded online inspired Ray & Webster to explore the approaches behind the furnaces construction. They are fascinated by the kind of ad-hoc, DIY, hobbyist activities epitomised by Arlene's project, which measuring 24ft by 8ft her project was pretty incredible. They replicated Arlene's project working as closely to as possible to the original specifications of the furnace (although perhaps in keeping with the approach of the original they improvised many of the construction processes and materials used). The reconstructed furnace was installed as part of Goonhilly Village Green, to provide heating for the Happidrome building during the Village Green Society Lecture series. Goonhilly, Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall, UK, 2015.